REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In response to the Office Action dated March 27, 2007, we offer the following submission and amendments.

Amendments

Claim 5 has been amended to highlight that the printhead cartridge incorporates the primary storage for ink used during printing. Only when this ink is depleted does the cartridge refill the printing fluid reservoirs by engaging a printing fluid refill source to the refill port on the cartridge body. This is described in detail at the section titled "Ink Refill Cartridge" beginning on page 21.

Accordingly, the amendments do not add any new matter.

Claims - 35 USC§103

Claim 5 stands rejected as obvious in light of US 6,250,738 to Waller et al in view of US 6,869,165 to Martin.

The present invention provides a two level cartridge system in which the printhead cartridge can be refilled with ink when a particular color of ink is depleted, and the entire printhead cartridge can be replaced when nozzle failure or other problems start leaving artifacts in the printed images. This system recognizes that a printer consumable unit (user replaceable cartridge) might itself need consumable units for operation. This offers a good compromise between purchase price, ongoing operating costs and print quality.

During the normal printing operations of the printer, the printing fluid storage reservoirs are the primary storage means for the ink used during print jobs. Only when these reservoirs are depleted does the refill port connect to a refill source to cost effectively prolong the operational life of the printhead cartridge.

Neither of the cited references suggest this type of system. While Waller mentions the possibility of a pagewidth printhead in the form of a replaceable cartridge, there is no disclosure of a printing fluid refill port. Similarly, Martin proposes an ink supply assembly for conveniently establishing a fluid connection between the printing fluid source and the carrier on which the printhead dies are mounted. The chambers within the assembly 70 are essentially conduits between the source of printing fluid and the carrier for the nozzle dies.

The assembly 70 remains connected to the source and the printhead carrier during normal printing operations and therefore its ports are clearly not for the purpose of refilling the fluid reservoirs of the printer.
It is well established that the cited references must disclose all the claim elements in order to support a §103 rejection. The citations fail to disclose any refilling of the ink reservoirs that supply the printhead. Accordingly Waller and Martin do not anticipate the present invention.

It is respectfully submitted that the §103 rejection has been maintained in error and the application is now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, we ask that the finality of the previous report be withdrawn and the application allowed.

Very respectfully,

Applicants:

Kia Silverbrook

C/o: Silverbrook Research Pty Ltd
393 Darling Street
Balmain NSW 2041, Australia

Email: kia.silverbrook@silverbrookresearch.com

Telephone: +612 9818 6633

Facsimile: +61 2 9555 7762